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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of

FIRE et al.

Appl. No. 09/215,257



AUG 17 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Group Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: K. Lacourciere

Filed: December 18, 1998

FOR: GENETIC INHIBITION BY DOUBLE-STRANDED RNA

* * * *

August 14, 2001

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 14, 2001 (Paper No. 7), entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly enter the following amended claims.

1. (2 x Amended) A method to inhibit expression of a target gene in a cell comprising introduction of a ribonucleic acid (RNA) into the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit expression of the target gene, wherein the RNA comprises a double-stranded structure having a first ribonucleotide sequence comprising at least 25 bases which correspond to a nucleotide sequence of the target gene and a second ribonucleotide sequence comprising at least 25 bases which are complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the target gene, the first and the second ribonucleotide sequences stably anneal to each other, and the cell is susceptible to RNA interference.